



What About Shaky Marriages?

I Corinthians 13:4-8a

February 14, 2010

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How to have a strong marriage.

What's the big idea? Understanding agape love is the key to a strong marriage.

Principle: Good marriages and bad marriages have very similar problems. It's how they _____ with those problems that make a difference.

Be realistic – all marriages have stress points:

1. _____ differences
2. _____ expectations
3. _____ issues
4. _____ mistakes
5. _____ romance killers

What are these romance killers?

1. Curse of _____
2. Twisted sense of _____
3. _____
4. _____ pressures
6. _____ conflict

What is the key? _____!

The Greeks had a variety of words for love:

_____ – physical and sexual attraction and fulfillment

_____ – friendship and companionship

_____ – spiritual love; God's love toward us

Principle: Agape love in the confines of marriage is a _____ on the part of each married partner to be primarily concerned for the well being of the other – even when one or the other is displeasing and/or does not respond appropriately.

"Follow the way of" – to _____ or to pursue relentlessly – to target a goal and fulfill it.

"God's work and my obedience equal a healthy marriage."

Agape love is shown by certain _____.

Two misconceptions about love:

1. Love is a _____
2. Love is _____

Love is a matter of:

1. _____
2. _____

Love suffers _____

Love is _____

Love is not _____

Love is not _____

Love is not _____

Love is not _____

Love is not _____-seeking

Love busters:

1. _____ demands
2. _____ judgments
3. _____ outbursts
4. _____
5. Annoying _____

Love is not _____.

Love does not keep _____ of wrong.

Love does not rejoice in _____.

Love rejoices in the _____.

Love never _____.

How the dynamics of marital love develop:

1. _____ responsibility for your own actions
2. _____ your marriage can change
3. _____ to doing whatever it takes
4. _____ with unresolved hurts
5. _____ support from others
6. _____ the past
7. _____ God

Final thoughts:

1. Maturity helps you to accept the fact that your spouse is _____ perfect.
2. Working through always seems to be harder than walking out – but it is _____ way.
3. Maturity helps you understand that marriage is not a matter of demanding rights – it is _____ rights.
4. The Christian's ultimate goal in life is not to be happy – but to _____ God.

Life group questions:

Describe some of the issues in your marriage that you and your spouse are dealing with. How has the teaching helped you understand how you can biblically deal with them?

What issues seem the most difficult to forgive? Why do you think that is so?

What can you do to become less selfish and self-centered and more "other centered" in your marriage?

In relationship to your priorities, do you think your marriage is receiving the right amount of time, energy, and resources? Why do you feel this way? Do you need to make adjustments in the priorities for your spiritual life, work, marriage, family and other matters?

On a piece of paper, write five to ten values you believe God desires for your marriage and family. Rank them in order of importance. Compare them with the list that your spouse has written. Discuss them, and merge your values into one agreed-upon list.